



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

September 19, 2001

Ordinance 14206

Proposed No. 2001-0392.2

Sponsors Pullen

1 AN ORDINANCE proposing to amend Article 8 of the
2 King County Charter to guarantee the free exercise of
3 religion and absolute freedom of conscience in all matters
4 of religious sentiment, belief and worship to every
5 individual within King County; adding a new Section 843
6 to the King County Charter, and submitting the same to the
7 voters of the county for their ratification or rejection at the
8 November 2001 general election.

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11 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

12 SECTION 1. There shall be submitted to the qualified voters of King County for
13 their approval and ratification or rejection, at the next general election to be held in this
14 county occurring more than forty-five days after the enactment of this ordinance, an
15 amendment to Article 8 of the King County Charter by adding new Section 843, as set
16 forth in this ordinance.

17 SECTION 2. The intent of this charter amendment is to guarantee freedom of
18 religion at the county level to the same extent as is guaranteed by Article I, Section 11 of
19 the Washington State Constitution. It is intended that all county agencies shall accord
20 freedom of religion to the extent required by the King County Charter, the Washington
21 State Constitution, and the United States Constitution.

22 NEW SECTION. SECTION 3. There is hereby added to the King County
23 Charter a new section to read as follows:

24 **Section 843. Freedom of religion guarantee.**

25 Absolute freedom of conscience in all matters of religious sentiment, belief and
26 worship, shall be guaranteed to every individual, and no one shall be molested or
27 disturbed in person or property on account of religion; but the liberty of conscience
28 hereby secured shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness or justify
29 practices inconsistent with the peace and safety of the state. No public money or property
30 shall be appropriated for or applied to any religious worship, exercise or instruction, or
31 the support of any religious establishment: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That this section
32 shall not be so construed as to forbid the employment by the county of a chaplain for
33 such of the county custodial, correctional, and mental institutions, or by a county public
34 hospital, health care facility, or hospice, as may be allowed by law. No religious
35 qualification shall be required for any public office or employment, nor shall any person
36 be incompetent as a witness or juror, in consequence of his opinion on matters of
37 religion, nor be questioned in any court of justice touching his religious belief to affect
38 the weight of his testimony. This section shall not diminish or limit any other protections

39 guaranteed by Article I, Section 11 of the Washington State Constitution or by the first
40 amendment of the United States Constitution.

41 SECTION 4. If any provision of this amendment to the charter, or its application
42 to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the amendment or its
43 application to other persons or circumstances is not affected.
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Ordinance 14206 was introduced on 7/23/01 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan
King County Council on 9/17/01, by the following vote:

Yes: 11 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Fimia, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Pelz, Mr.
McKenna, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Nickels, Mr. Pullen, Ms. Hague, Mr. Thomas
and Mr. Irons
No: 2 - Ms. Miller and Mr. Gossett
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ATTEST:

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, ____.

Attachments None

